

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/691,441

Examiner

Le Nguyen

Applicant(s)

ANTHONY ET AL.

Art Unit

2174

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to a telephone interview with Ross Dannenberg on 4/28/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10, 12-30 and 32-43.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 23 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Kristine Kincaid
KRISTINE KINCAID
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ross Dannenberg on 4/28/05.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 11 and 31 have been cancelled.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate 11 as follows:

1. A computer-implemented method for displaying a set of items on a graphical user interface according to a common attribute of each item of the set, wherein the attribute can be ordered, comprising:

determining an ordering interval of the set of items;

dividing the set of items into a plurality of ordered groups based on the ordering interval and the attribute;

determining a focal group from the plurality of ordered groups;

displaying the focal group at a point of primary focus of the graphical user interface;

displaying on the graphical user interface with less prominence than the focal group on a first side of the focal group, at least one group that precedes the focal group;

displaying on the graphical user interface with less prominence than the focal group on a second side of the focal group, at least, one group that succeeds the focal group; and

displaying a histogram indicating a range within which the ordered groups fall, based on the attribute on which the ordered groups are ordered, wherein upon receiving user input selecting an interval on the histogram, a new focal group is determined based on the selected interval, and displaying the new focal group at the point of primary focus corresponding to the selected interval.

Claim 21 has been amended to incorporate 31 as follows:

21. A computer readable medium comprising computer executable instructions that cause a computer to perform a method for displaying a set of items on a graphical user interface according to a common attribute of each item of the set, wherein the attribute can be ordered, comprising:

determining an ordering interval of the set of items;

dividing the set of items into a plurality of ordered groups based on the ordering interval and the attribute;

determining a focal group from the plurality of ordered groups;

displaying the focal group at a point of primary focus of the graphical user interface;

displaying on the graphical user interface with less prominence than the focal group on a first side of the focal group, at least one group that precedes the focal group;

displaying on the graphical user interface with less prominence than the focal group on a second side of the focal group, at least, one group that succeeds the focal group; and

displaying a histogram indicating a range within which the ordered groups fall, based on the attribute on which the ordered groups are ordered, wherein upon receiving user input selecting an interval on the histogram, a new focal group is determined based on the selected interval, and displaying the new focal group at the point of primary focus corresponding to the selected interval.

Claim 41 has been amended as follows:

A computer generated user interface for displaying items comprising:

a first set of items comprising a focal group;

a plurality of sets of items related to the first set of items comprising a plurality of non-focal groups positioned in such a way as to appear less prominent than the focal group;

wherein the focal group and the plurality of non-focal groups are positioned according to an ordering attribute that exists in the focal group and the non-focal groups; and

displaying a histogram indicating a range within which the focal and non-focal groups fall, based on the ordering attribute on which the focal and non-focal groups are ordered, wherein upon receiving user input selecting an interval on the histogram, a new focal group is determined based on the selected interval, and displaying the new focal group at a point of primary focus corresponding to the selected interval.

Claim 43 has been amended as follows:

43. A method for displaying a plurality of items on a graphical user interface, comprising:

organizing the plurality of items into groups of two-dimensional arrays based on time;

displaying at least a plurality of the groups on the graphical user interface with differing prominence based on a selected group; and

displaying a histogram indicating a range within which the groups fall, based on the ordering attribute on which the groups are ordered, wherein upon receiving user input selecting an interval on the histogram, a new focal group is determined based on the selected interval, and displaying the new focal group at a point of primary focus corresponding to the selected interval.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Khosla teaches a computer-implemented method for displaying a set of items on a GUI according to a common attribute of each item of the set, wherein the attribute can be ordered, comprising: determining an ordering interval of the set of items (fig. 12A; col. 13, lines 37-40; *determining an ordering via layout specifications or manual drag and drop operation*); dividing the set of items into a plurality of ordered groups based on the ordering interval and the attribute (10B-12A; col. 11, line 33 through col. 12, line 40); determining a focal group from the plurality of ordered groups (fig. 12B; col. 13, lines 27-36); displaying the focal group at a point of primary focus of the GUI (fig. 12B; col. 13, lines 27-36); displaying on the GUI with less prominence than the focal group on a

second side of the focal group, at least, one group that succeeds the focal group (fig. 12B; col. 13, lines 27-36; *group 1223 succeeds focal group 1222*). Moreover, Khosda in view of Ho teaches a computer-implemented method comprising displaying on the GUI with less prominence than the focal group on a second side of the focal group, at least one group that precedes the focal group (figs. 18G-19C; sections [0207] and [0134]).

However, neither Khosla alone, nor in combination with Ho teach or suggest displaying a histogram indicating a range within which the groups fall, based on the ordering attribute on which the groups are ordered, wherein upon receiving user input selecting an interval on the histogram, a new focal group is determined based on the selected interval, and displaying the new focal group at a point of primary focus corresponding to the selected interval.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Wynn et al. (US 6,667,751 B1) teach a linear Web browser history viewer.

Li et al. (US 5,911,138) teach a database search facility having improved user interface.

Berstis (US 6,243,091 B1) teaches a global history view.

Ho (US 2003/0030673 A1) teaches a computer based browsing computer program product, system and method.

Eick (US 5,644,692) teaches an information display apparatus and methods.

Khosla et al. (US 6,202,061 B1) teach methods and apparatuses for creating a collection of media.

Sciammarella et al. (US 6,570,582 B1) teach a display of multiple images based on a temporal relationship among them with various operations available to a user as a function of the image size.

Robertson et al. (US 6,486,895 B1) teach a display system for displaying lists of linked documents.

Scott et al. (US 6,546,687 B2) teach a thumbnail manipulation using fast and aspect ratio zooming, compressing and scaling.

Knowlton (US 5,283,864) teaches a computer apparatus and method for graphical flipbook.

Robertson et al. (US 6,414,677 B1) teach methods, apparatus and data structures for providing a user interface, which exploits spatial memory in three-dimensions, to objects and which visually groups proximally located objects.

Inquires

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Lê Nguyen whose telephone number is (571).

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272-4068. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid, can be reached on (571) 272-4063.

The fax numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

(703) 872-9306 [Official Communication]

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

LVN
Patent Examiner
April 28, 2005